(a) whether Government are launching a nation-wide programme to create awareness on various aspects of earthquake through school children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to launch a nation-wide programme to create awareness on various aspects of earthquake through school children. However, a pilot project on School Earthquake Monitoring Laboratories has been initiated during the year 2004-05 covering 100 schools in seismic zones IV and V in North West Himalaya (Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and J&K) and North East parts of India covering all the 7 States. The scheme aims at providing education and awareness about earthquake through school children.

Communique from I.M.D.

2583. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) when the first communique wert from the Indian Meteorological Department to Government on Tsunami;

(b) whether it is not a fact that the first communication was sent to the residence of former S&T Minister at 8.54 am;

(c) whether it is a fact that Tsunami hit Sumatra Islands at 6.29 a.m. on 26th December, 2004 and within one hour of this, Government knew that it would hit Chennai; and

(d) if so, what the Government have done on knowing the information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) India Meteorolgical Department issued the first communication at 8.54 a.m. on 26.12.2004 about Sumatra earthquake. The communication did not mention about possibility of Tsunami.

(b) The communication sent by India Meteorological Department at 8.54 a.m. was fixed to a large number of Government functionaries, press and media and in that process it also got faxed to former Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology inadvertently.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.